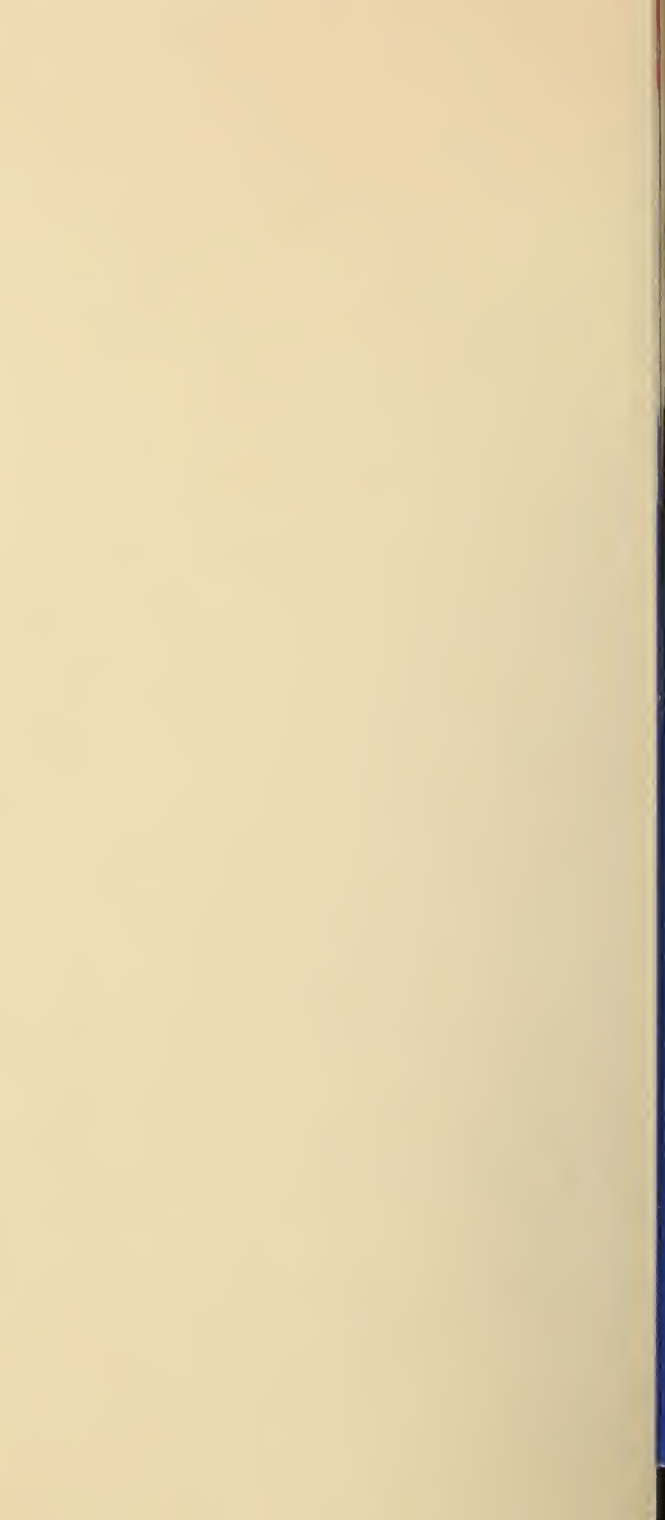


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THE NATION'S BICENTENNIAL

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LET'S PLAN A Birthday Party!

1099
Oct. 1974



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BICENTENNIAL BROCHURE



LET'S PLAN A Birthday Party!

The biggest birthday party in America's history will soon be here!

All of us can participate in events marking the 200th birthday of the founding of the United States of America. The official Bicentennial period will be March 1975 to December 1976.

Start plans now. Your community can receive official Bicentennial Community status with the help of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, (ARBA) 736 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20276. Here is how you qualify:

- Contact your mayor or some other town or county official and organize a special bicentennial planning and coordinating committee . . . one representative of all segments of the community.
- Plan a bicentennial program to tie in with the three bicentennial themes: (1) *Heritage '76*, honoring and reflecting upon the past; (2) *Festival USA*, featuring celebrations and hospitality; and (3) *Horizons '76*, making a commitment to improve the quality of life in rural areas.
- Submit the application to the ARBA through your State bicentennial agency. (If in doubt about who heads bicentennial planning for your State, contact the governor's office.)

Every rural community has a rich history of events and situations that can be unfolded to honor and reflect on the past. Here are just a few ideas.



HERITAGE '76

- Run a contest, using local media, to identify and locate the oldest living family whose roots trace to the pioneers.
- Present a plaque, in a public ceremony, to recognize the oldest store or grain mill that has served the community.
- Plan ways to recognize the founding and service of the land grant university, agricultural experiment stations, churches and other institutions in the community.
- Urge 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and adult groups to conduct pageants depicting the history of the community.
- Trace real estate deeds to find the farm, ranch, or home still in the name of the family first holding the deed. Acknowledge the family.
- Trace the history of farm, church, and other key organizations and associations in the community and publicize how they have aided in the development of the community.
- Select historical farms and museums as projects for observing the bicentennial.
- Get pictures of all chief elected officials of the town, and dedicate a display of them in town hall.
- Tie in the bicentennial celebration with routine events and functions in your community. For example, if you normally have a fair, emphasize the old and the new in this year's exhibits.

GPO : 1974 O-559-845

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FESTIVAL USA

- Recognize key people and organizations at county and State fairs, using exhibits, bandstand shows and historical ceremonies.
- Display antique tractors and other tools used by community-area farmers and pioneers in industry.
- Organize community events or contests, such as old-fashioned cooking, hand-husking corn, quilting bees, syrup-making, spinning, and plowing matches to feature local talent.
- Conduct agricultural experiment station field days and tours of area farms and ranches to point out the contributions of agriculture to the growth and success of the local community.
- Offer urban people the opportunity to spend a day on a farm during the bicentennial festival period. Help organize these and other events which may call for active cooperation between city and farm people.
- Have pageants of local history between halves of the high school football or basketball games.
- Agricultural histories, city and county histories, and ethnic contributions to the growth and development of the community may be news for the local media and historical gems forever.
- Have a Bicentennial Farm Fair in an urban shopping center. Set up exhibits that show what farming was like 200 years ago—and is like today. Demonstrate home crafts and display animals. Feature kitchen and other home furnishings from 200 years ago and today.



HORIZONS '76

- Establish or improve community parks as a lasting way to improve the quality of life for the future. These parks can include trails for hiking and horseback riding, and a stream for boating and fishing.
- What better way to look to the future than for your community to endorse or develop a long-range plan for Community Development (CD). If you do not have a CD Committee now, contact your mayor or local USDA offices for help in organizing one.
- Encourage home economics extension groups to produce a long-range plan for reinforcing the close-knit family concept as a strength of rural America.
- Some State Extension Services and State Departments of Agriculture have already established "horizon goals" and have moved rapidly to accomplish them. Has your county considered new goals?
- Some communities are reviving streets with flower boxes, planting trees, and remodeling store fronts. Is 1975-76 the time for your community to plan for revitalization? Try it — you might like it!
- Arouse the enthusiasm of young people in high school or youth clubs — let them show the future they want.

How do you take part in '76?

Get involved. It's that simple. Help initiate events and programs which go directly to the people in your community. You are what the bicentennial "birthday party" is all about.

You can help the people in your community rediscover the national spirit of '76 that has been the envy of less fortunate people around the world for 200 years!

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is proud of the part it has played in assuring an adequate supply of high quality food and fiber at reasonable cost since it was created in America's first century.

The State, regional or local offices of the Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Research Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, and other agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be participating in the Bicentennial and will help you in any way possible to sense the greatness of the occasion.

Let's get the light of your community uncovered and shining so the whole nation can see it!

Earl L. Butz
Secretary

Issued October 1974



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COMMISSION

